

Our interest in the region, and our past expense of resources to defend those interests, dictate the importance of not overlooking this recent action. We must ensure that the potential for any increased peaceful trade, due to the Middle East peace process, not be disrupted. We cannot allow the promise of a bright economic future for the Middle East and the Persian Gulf suffer at the hands of the despotic rulers in Iran. To counter that, I have recently cosponsored legislation that would deeply affect Iran's ability to do business and I strongly urge all my colleagues to do the same. These proposed economic sanctions will show that the United States has no intention of abandoning the gulf region to the terrorist whims of Iran's mullahs.

U.S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD:  
MR. WEST VIRGINIA

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 23, 1996*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, it was recently brought to my attention that a lot has happened over the last 50 years.

And you may well ask: Who doesn't know that? So something must have happened to bring that fact home to me, you are thinking. And you are right.

The fact that a lot has happened over the last 50 years was brought home to me in a most defining moment when our revered senior U.S. Senator from West Virginia, ROBERT C. BYRD, showed me a 50-year-old artifact of his long tenure as a public servant on behalf of the people of our great State.

Today, February 23, 1996, marks the half-century that has passed since ROBERT C. BYRD filed to run for his first public office, when he ran for the West Virginia House of Delegates.

Fifty years ago, on February 23, 1946, Senator BYRD paid the Raleigh County Circuit Clerk a fee of \$10 for filing.

More awesome still, in the telling of this story, is—first of all—Senator BYRD still has that original \$10 receipt No. 5333. The paper it is written on has yellowed with age and the passage of time that has made it as fragile as old parchment.

Second, after taking a closer look at that aging receipt, and given that at this time in our country's political history when fund raising for the big bucks necessary to win reelection has gone through the ceiling and into outer space, it was rather inspiring to note that the filing fee for public office 50 years ago was a whopping \$10.

And finally, I noted that in that 50-year period, the fee for filing for office in West Virginia has gone up by only \$23—to \$33—reflecting an increase of only 46 cents per year for 50 years.

Senator ROBERT C. BYRD might say that this alone should encourage all public-spirited young men and women in West Virginia and in the Nation to run for public office; it says that at least, the filing fee is no obstacle to the desire to serve—and that ROBERT C. BYRD has a well-aged, 50 year-old receipt to prove it.

Mr. Speaker, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD is one of the finest men to ever serve in the U.S.

Senate, indeed the finest to ever serve in both legislative bodies in the West Virginia Legislature, and who subsequently won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives prior to beginning his service in the Senate in 1958.

When I am asked to pay tribute to Senator BYRD—there is often so much to say, and so much that needs to be said for history's sake, lest we ever forget this man's devotion to the people of his State, but I find words often are not enough to pay tribute to his tireless efforts on behalf of West Virginians.

I have often heard the Senator quote, from what I believe is the Book of Proverbs, saying: "Without vision, the people will perish." I, and all West Virginians are quite certain that, without Senator BYRD's innate wisdom and certainly his vision of the future throughout the half-century of service he has given us, West Virginia would not have become the bulwark, it now is for statewide business development opportunities and other economic development projects.

In a State such as ours, economic recovery is not as swift as it is for other States once economic growth and stability for the Nation is strengthening. We have to work harder to bring in new business and industry and to create new jobs.

With an eye toward bringing new industries and new jobs to West Virginia, and secure in the knowledge of our State's countless attributes such as a willing and able labor supply, plentiful natural resources, a growing State infrastructure, spectacular scenery, and a good, clean, crime-free living environment—Senator BYRD's vision is going to help bring West Virginia into the 21st century equally as well prepared as other States.

But Senator BYRD isn't just about a 50-year-old receipt for having filed for his first public office, nor about his more recent successful efforts to bring about the very effective business development opportunities in our State.

Senator BYRD has always known, and has always acted on the knowledge, that for a State to grow and to thrive depends upon an educated citizenry. Educating our children and youth has always been in the forefront of his grand vision for improving West Virginia. By ensuring an educated citizenry, Senator BYRD has brought to fruition not only his dream, but all of West Virginia's, of capitalizing on our State's many resources—both human and capital.

Senator BYRD has put his considerable influence and concern to work to ensure our ability to enter into the growing fields of health care services and delivery, the information highway, computer science and technology, infrastructure building, school improvement, and reform which includes his strong support for libraries and literacy programs, to name only a few.

His dedication to growth in the fledgling travel and tourism industry in our State which is known for its grand, breathtaking beauty amidst rugged mountainous terrain, and for its early historical influence, often after bloody encounters, in bringing about fair labor laws to serve its working men and women, especially in the coal mining industry, is well documented.

It is through these kinds of exemplary initiatives that Senator BYRD more than any other single individual, has helped assure West Virginia's entry into the technological world of the 21st century fully prepared and raring to go.

Today, I am pleased to salute ROBERT C. BYRD as Senator, as mentor, as a personal

friend, and to wish him Godspeed as he labors in the vineyard of excellence in pursuit of an even stronger future for our State and its people. I know that as he has done in the past 50 years, Senator BYRD will today, kick off the next 50 years by continuing his work in ways that will give our people the natural dignity of a paycheck, the comfort of a job, the hope of parents for their children's future brought by education, the ability to find joy and pride in being a West Virginian, and the strength that comes from having a purpose in life and being prepared to meet all the challenges along the way.

Happy 50th anniversary, Senator BYRD.

## CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 652, TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 1, 1996*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to today to comment on the passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. This legislation, if properly implemented, has the potential to usher in an era of truly fair competition in all aspects of telecommunications. A decade or so ago, Judge Greene broke up Ma Bell, and consumers enjoyed a precipitous decline in the cost of long-distance service made possible by competition among 500 providers of long-distance service.

However, today we do not have competition in the local market. This legislation seeks to change that, and so I am pleased to see the President sign it into law.

But, Mr. Speaker, before any regional Bell company enters the long-distance market, there must be competition in its local market. That is what fair competition is all about.

Our job is not finished. Rather, it is vital that Congress keep vigilant oversight over the implementation of this act. If, instead of unleashing full blown competition, this legislation starts us on the path of having seven monopolies dominate local and long-distance service, we must intervene. I am very hopeful, that will not be necessary. The best way to ensure that this does not happen is if the FCC heeds the counsel of the Attorney General, who will be evaluating Bell company applications to enter the long-distance market.

Again, if implemented properly, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 will give consumers more choices for local telephone service without jeopardizing the benefits of competition they already enjoy in long distance.

## LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 1996*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I am unable to support the Interstate Transportation of Municipal Solid Waste Act of 1995. Regardless of the numerous procedural and environmental concerns which many of us have